



# Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, Inc.



## Proposed House Bill No. HB-318

### AN ACT CONCERNING CAPTIVE AUDIENCE MEETINGS

March 8, 2022

Respectfully submitted to the Labor and Public Employees Committee Co-Chairs Kushner and Porter, and Honorable Members of this Committee.

My name is Allie French and I am the Executive Director of the Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, a trade organization comprised of Merit Shop Electrical Contractors licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection and includes industry related Associate Members. We are an approved provider of apprenticeship training and continued education each approved by the Department of Labor and the Department of Consumer Protection respectively.

On behalf of the Independent Electrical Contractor (IEC), members, associates and clients we are submitting this testimony in **“OPPOSITION”** to HB-318, An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings.

We particularly take exception to the inclusion of “fraternal or labor organizations” as included in the definition of “political matters”. This is an “overreach” and an infringement on private industry and its relationship between employer and employee, particularly as it relates to labor organizations.

The stated purpose of this bill is quoted as, *“To prohibit an employer from coercing employees into attending or participating in meetings sponsored by the employer concerning the employer's views on political or religious matters”*. Again, I state that fraternal or labor organizations should not be included in this proposed bill.

I thank you for your time in reading and taking into consideration our position on HB-318 An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings and respectfully request that you “OPPOSE” HB 318.